



# The New England Dispatch

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## Trivia Question

By David McNally  
*We all know and love the Thunderbolt, an ACE Roller Coaster Landmark at Six Flags New England, but New England once had another Thunderbolt. Where was it?*

## Hollywood Visits Canobie Lake Park to Film Scene for Upcoming Movie

(Chris Nicoli & Dan Richards) (Photos by Canobie Lake Park)

SALEM, NH – The call came from a production coordinator for the new Jason Reitman film, *Labor Day*. The movie crew had been shooting parts of the film nearby in Massachusetts and the script called for a scene featuring two of the principal characters in an amusement park setting, specifically riding “tea-cups.” Academy Award-winning actress Kate Winslet and award-winning actor Josh Brolin were the focus of the scene.



“Our team worked with the production coordinator to ensure that their experience filming in our great state of New Hampshire was smooth and seamless,” said Chris Nicoli, Canobie’s Marketing and Entertainment Manager. “Canobie Lake Park has been used as a location in other film and television productions over the years, both as a setting and as a featured subject. In this case, we were able to accommodate a major motion picture company that needed just the right look of a classic family amusement Park for the scene.”

Canobie’s staff arrived at the Park at 3AM on an August Friday morning to get ready for the arrival of the tractor-trailers of equipment and a full production crew that arrived shortly thereafter. Lighting, cameras, monitors and other essential equipment were put in place in the center of the Park. Test shots were made and extras were put into costume and make-up. The key actors then arrived, the scene was shot and the crew wrapped up after nearly six hours of work before the Park’s scheduled opening of 11AM. All for what will amount to only seconds in the film.



“The entire event went extremely smooth,” said Nicoli. “Respecting the privacy of the production, a closed set was ordered. About one-fourth of the Park was sealed off to allow the film team to gather the necessary footage. Once all was complete, actor Josh Brolin and director Jason Reitman wrapped up their day with a ride on our vertical incline roller coaster, Untamed. Absolutely no trace of the substantial production remained by the time the Park gates opened to the public.”

*Labor Day* is based on the book of the same name by Joyce Maynard about a thirteen-year-old boy from New Hampshire and the life lessons he learns over a long Labor Day weekend. Jason Reitman, who also directed the films *Juno*, *Up In The Air* and others, wrote the script for the movie adaptation and is the director. It is scheduled to be released sometime next year and Canobie Lake Park can say they had a hand in its production – at least for a few seconds of it.

## Oc-Boulder-Fest!

(Rus Ozana) (Photos by Rus Ozana)

Lake Compounce had a late-season Oktoberfest celebration back in 2000, and that same year, *Oc~Boulder~Fest!* was created. LC's Oktoberfest lasted only that one year, but every September since, *O~B~F!* has been held at 'The Lake'.

The historical September date was changed this year, so that *O~B~F!* would not compete with another very popular coaster event. Rather than making attendees choose between the two, the date change permitting them to attend both events.

Attendees were met with a beautiful, sunny day, and with it, very large crowds to Lake Compounce. Among that crowd were 86 *Oc~Boulder~Fest!*-ers, ready for a day of fun, sun, lunch and night time ERT.

The gates opened at 11, and attendees had an hour to kill before the all-you-can-eat buffet lunch began, and many took advantage of that hour to get in some daylight rides on *Boulder Dash*. *BD* had a motor issue earlier in the week and fortunately, the park scrambled to get it repaired. The coaster was running great.

With the date change to August 25, another change occurred – the inclusion of a catered lunch. Attendees were treated to many gastronomical delights from soup, to salad, right through to dessert. All-you-can-eat takes on a special meaning for ACE members and their guests, as many went back to the buffet line for seconds, and more. Unlimited soft drinks have been a staple at Lake Compounce for some time, and we certainly consumed our share of liquids as well.

Did somebody say 'Door Prizes'? Many attendees wondered where the usual plethora of door prizes were, as they were usually displayed across the tables during lunch. This year, instead of shopping for said prizes, and having to worry about sizes and colors, and exchanges, envelopes of Midway Moola were given away, with amounts ranging from \$5 to \$50. This was met rather enthusiastically by all but the littlest of attendees, who usually hope to win one of the stuffed animals that are offered.

After lunch, the group broke up and went in several directions, with many taking advantage of a *Wildcat* walk-back tour by park General Manager, Jerry Brick. *Wildcat* was down for the remainder of the season, making the perfect opportunity for such tour. Jerry reviewed the sections of track that were going to be repaired and replaced, and answered a myriad of questions. Of course, just about everyone in the group had a camera and took advantage of photographing *Wildcat* from just about every possible angle.

At the end of the tour, Jerry offered up \$5 sky coaster rides to all *OBF!* attendees who show their name badge to the ride ops. Unfortunately, trying to spread the word to those who had not taken the walk-back tour proved to be extremely difficult since we would not all be together again until night ERT.

Speaking of ERT, it was fantastic! Cooler evening temperatures after a hot day certainly agrees with *Boulder Dash*, which offered up rides in the dark that were fast, fast, fast! Double rides. Two train operation. If you were in the right seat upon returning to the station, you could ride again without getting out of the car. The 'Hokey Pokey' aside, THAT's what it's all about!



## ***New Feature - Trip Reports***

Offered by New England ACE members, allowing us to travel vicariously through others!

### **Lagoon, Farmington, Utah**

*(Harrison Carmichael) (Photos by Harrison Carmichael)*

The 2012 coaster season has been quite exciting for me, as a fairly new member to ACE I was determined to get my numbers up, and this was the year to do so! I set a high goal for myself of 100 new credits; I was not able to reach my goal, falling short at just over 80, a number that I am quite proud of. I had the opportunity to attend both regional and park events including the ACE Spring conference, as well as many park visits on my own. The park that I was particularly looking forward to the most was Lagoon, just outside of Salt Lake City in Farmington, UT. It was a planned vacation with my partner to Yellowstone National Park and The Grand Tetons that allowed me the opportunity to visit Lagoon, and add what I hoped to be nine new credits to my roster.

It was a sunny Saturday morning in July, as I found myself arriving at the park 30 minutes prior to opening. My initial reaction as I approached the modest entry plaza was “this is it”? Perhaps I was expecting something a bit more “grand”, however that initial thought soon dissipated as I found myself focused, from a parking lot view, of three coasters soon to be mine. With park map in hand, my strategy was simple, head towards the far right, where five of the parks nine coasters were all in close proximity. I was confident my early start would give me an advantage above others.

My first stop was the aptly named *Roller Coaster*, a John A. Miller double out & back and ACE landmark coaster. As I began to secure myself in the back seat of the train, I was made aware of a ride policy I had never seen before - absolutely no single riders in the front or back seats. This was the first of two times on that day that being a single rider would be my downfall. I am a sucker for a good out & back and *Roller Coaster* did not let me down. Although not a high thrill, it was the perfect choice to start the day and prepare me for bigger things to come. Multiple rides were not an option at this point, for just around the corner lurked a coaster foursome not to be reckoned with.

After by-passing *Wild Mouse*, only to ride later, I headed directly for the Schwarzkopf double looping classic known as *Colossus The Fire Dragon*. What fun! I loved this powerful, steel coaster enough to ride three times consecutively. At this point my sights were set even higher, as I fast approached the much anticipated *Wicked*, only to find my excitement turn to disappointment as I noticed the dreaded “this attraction is currently closed” sign at the rides entrance. Convinced I would be less one credit, I pushed on towards *Spider*, a Maurer Sohne spinning coaster, and admittedly my first of its kind. I enjoyed it quite a bit, however being a single rider on one side of the four passenger vehicle did not allow for a whole lot of “spin”. Before heading towards the other side of the park, I took a needed ride on *Wild Mouse*, which I found slightly above average, then added a coveted kiddie coaster credit to the days line up on *Puff The Little Fire Dragon*. My quest for new credits continued as I found myself on board two steel family coasters of different varieties. First up was *Bombora*, Lagoon’s newest coaster, complete with on board audio. A two-train operation and minimal wait time made for an enjoyable experience. Next up was *Bat*, a Vekoma junior SLC. In a word *Bat* was a “bust”. With slow dispatch and single train operation, *Bat* had the longest wait time of any coaster that day.



At this point my casual stride quickly turned to a brisk jog as I made my way closer to *Jet Star 2*, the second of two Schwarzkopf coasters. This was the credit I was most looking forward to, only to be bitten by the “no single rider bug”. As I peered upwards towards the sleek six passenger trains racing about the bright red and yellow track, I lowered my head in disgust knowing that the only way I could ride *Jet Star 2* was to beg the operator for an exception, or ask a stranger to ride with me. My passive domineer prevented me from doing either. Down two credits I was disappointed. I did not score all nine until realizing, although not operating earlier, *Wicked* could still be a contender. I approached the statuesque tower launch coaster with vigor, only to encounter a full queue. A quick look to the left presented a single rider line and I was aboard the eight passenger train in minutes. At first glance *icked* looked very much like a Euro-Fighter, however I was informed by a fellow enthusiasts it is a custom designer by Zierer. Its tunnel launch, twisty layout and zero-g roll left me wanting more, and more I got, for this time being a single rider proved beneficial!

Overall I found my visit to Lagoon quite pleasurable. The park was easy to navigate and nicely landscaped with a home spun feel. In addition to its diverse coasters, the park boast a nice collection of flat rides including the new for 2012 Zamperla Air Race, as well as a quaint water park known as Lagoon A Beach. I am thrilled I was able to spend the day taking multiple coaster rides at Lagoon, and although I did not come home with the nine credits I was after, I am happy to add eight to my fast growing list.

Harrison Carmichael

## Canobie Lake Park Announces New Equinox Ride

Park Open Weekends with Oktoberfest, Autumn Fairgrounds Retail Area and Screeemfest Fall Events

SALEM, NH – Canobie Lake Park is open each weekend during September and October. The Park’s newly acquired EQUINOX ride is also targeted for an October opening to ramp up the thrills planned for this fall.

EQUINOX features a breathtaking flight of almost 75 feet into the air spinning in almost every direction simultaneously. The ride has a trio of arms emanating from a center hub with each arm holding two 4-seat gondolas in an “open-seat” configuration.

A huge boom lifts 24 passengers into the sky as they revolve around the center. And then the thrills increase exponentially as the boom holding the arms rotates and each arm in turn begins to flip independently.

In addition to the new ride, Canobie Lake Park features a range of fall events with something for everyone. The seven-weekend Oktoberfest celebration and this year’s new Autumn Fairgrounds retail area opened on September 15th. The Oktoberfest gala includes a beer garden, traditional German food, music and live entertainment. Canobie’s crowd-pleasing live show, tribute to the music Madonna, also returns this fall.



Beginning Friday, September 28th and continuing through Sunday, October 28th, hours will be extended this year on weekends with the Park opening at 1PM,

To give guests additional time to enjoy some Fall fun with everything the Park has to offer, Canobie Lake Park's operating hours appears to the right:

SCREEEMFEST adds some fear to the mix haunting Canobie Lake Park each weekend as well! There’s plenty to “screeem” about with five haunted houses, including the new “Terror in the Corn” haunted maze in a corn field that Canobie grew on-site just for this event. There will also be Halloween games, zombies and monsters lurking about, and for the youngsters, Canobie’s Kiddieland will be open along with a family-friendly walk through the corn maze on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The one and only MINI KISS tribute band also returns, rocking every night during Screeemfest.

11am - 8pm 11am - 10pm 4pm - 8pm 6pm - 11pm 1pm - 11pm 1pm - 8pm

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

Canobie Lake Park is presenting all their fall events for one, low admission price that includes all haunted houses, operating rides, entrance to Oktoberfest and the Autumn Fairgrounds retail area, live entertainment and more. For Park hours, show schedules, directions and more information about events, visit the Park’s website at canobie.com.

### Trivia Question Answer

Revere Beach had New England’s first Thunderbolt as seen here in this picture dated 1924.



### In Memorium

New England ACE member Carol Deeble passed away on August 18. She and her husband, Don Tuttle, were in a car accident while returning home to Connecticut from the ACE Preservation Conference. Carol's family, including Don, was at her side when she passed away from the injuries sustained in the accident.

Carol shared a passion for roller coasters with Don. Eleven years ago, they were married on the Comet at The Great Escape and together they have ridden over 1,000 coasters on six continents. They have been ACE members in the New England Region since 1996.

Carol was immensely generous. She could strike up a conversation with anyone, and she always enjoyed sharing her love of coasters with others. She will be truly missed.



### More Photos from our Contributors



*Thunderbolt, Six Flags New England*  
Photo by Ric Turner



*Untamed*  
Courtesy of Canobie Lake Park



Courtesy of Canobie Lake Park



Courtesy of Canobie Lake Park



*Wicked* - Lagoon, Farmington, Utah  
Photo by Harrison Carmichael



*Spider* - Lagoon, Farmington, Utah  
Photo by Harrison Carmichael

**ACE NE Online!** Don't forget to visit our website, [ACENewEngland.org](http://ACENewEngland.org) and our Facebook page, American Coaster Enthusiasts New England Region. You'll find photos, the latest news, and even full color versions of the *New England Dispatch!*

**Need To Contact Us?** If you have an idea, suggestion, question, or news you want to share with us, there are several there are several ways to contact your New England Regional Reps:



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**NEW MEMBERS**

The New England Region of the American Coaster Enthusiasts would like to offer a warm and sincere welcome to The newest members in our region:

Brian Biernat, Bristol, CT; Mark Dennis, Enfield, CT; Ryan Dennis, Enfield, CT; Vincent Marco, Enfield, CT; Daniel Nixon, Enfield, CT; Benjamin Rosner, Fairfield, CT; Adam Lavoie, Attleboro, MA; Stephen Barrett, Concord, MA; Rob Steere, Marlborough, MA; John Scire, Watertown, MA; Julie Porter, Hope Valley, RI; Shayne Dyer, West Warwick, RI; Megan Gillard, West Warwick, RI; Steven Vasconcellos, West Warwick, RI

Hope to see you all "on the rails" soon!